

CERCLA 104(e) INFORMATION REQUEST
URGENT LEGAL MATTER: PROMPT REPLY REQUESTED
CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED #

Jose R Estrada
1623 Gaza Ave
Dallas, Texas 77216

Re: Manufacturing Specialties Inc., Hutchins, Dallas County TX
SSID No. A6DC; CERCLA 104(e) Information Request

Dear Mr Estrada:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks cooperation in providing information and documents relating to the Manufacturing Specialties Inc., Site (Site) in Hutchins, Dallas County, Texas. Obtained information will aid the EPA in its investigation of this Site.

This information request is not a determination that you are responsible or potentially responsible for contamination that occurred at the Site. The EPA is sending this letter as part of its investigation of the Site and does not expect you to pay for or perform any site-related activities at this time. If the EPA determines that you are responsible or potentially responsible for response activities at the Site, you will receive a separate letter clearly stating such a determination as well as the EPA's basis for such determination.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 104(e), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e), gives the EPA the authority to require the respondent to respond to this information request (see Enclosure 1). We encourage you to give this matter your full attention, and we respectfully request you to respond to this request for information within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. You may designate another official with the requisite authority to respond on behalf of yourself. However, failure to respond to this information request may result in the EPA seeking penalties of up to \$37,500 per day of violation. In addition, furnishing false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations is subject to criminal penalty under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Please provide a written response to Mr. Stephen Capuyan, Enforcement Officer, at the address included in the Information Request. Please refer to Enclosure 2 for important instructions and definitions and Enclosure 3 for specific questions that require your response to this Information Request. If you have any questions regarding this letter, contact Mr. Capuyan at (214) 665-2163. For legal questions concerning this letter, please have your legal counsel contact Mrs. Amy Salinas, at (214) 665-8063. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ben Banipal, Associate Director
Technical and Enforcement Branch
Superfund Division

Enclosures (4)

ENCLOSURE 1

MANUFACTURING SPECIALTIES INC., SITE INFORMATION REQUEST

RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the federal "Superfund" law, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responds to the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants into the environment to stop additional contamination and to clean-up or otherwise address any prior contamination.

The EPA is requesting information under CERCLA Section 104(e). Section 104(e) may be found in the United States Code (U.S.C.) at Title 42 Section (section is denoted by the symbol "§") 9604(e), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e).

Pursuant to the authority of CERCLA §104(e), you are hereby requested to respond to the enclosed information request. If you have any questions concerning the Manufacturing Specialties Inc., Site (Site) or this information request letter, please contact Mr. Stephen Capuyan, the designated Enforcement Officer for the Site, at phone number (214) 665-2163, fax number (214) 665-6660, or via email at capuyan.stephen@epa.gov. Please mail your response within 30 calendar days of your receipt of this request to the following address:

Mr. Stephen Capuyan, Enforcement Officer
Superfund Enforcement Assessment Section (6SF-TE)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

If you or your attorney has legal questions that pertain to this information letter request, please contact Mrs. Amy Salinas at phone number (214) 665-8063, fax number (214) 665-6460 or via email at salinas.amy@epa.gov. For contact via mail, use the following address:

Mrs. Amy Salinas
Office of Regional Counsel (6RC-S)
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The MSI Superfund Site is located at 1834 Carpenter Rd., in Hutchins, Dallas County, Texas. The Site is the former location of the MSI manufacturing operation, which manufactured polishes, dyes and other organic preparations used to make and maintain leather goods. The former MSI property consists in part of an 11,000-square foot concrete slab where the main production building was located, a metal pole shed and two above-ground storage tanks in a concrete impoundment.

ENCLOSURE 2

MANUFACTURING SPECIALTIES INC., SITE INFORMATION REQUEST

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please provide a separate narrative response for each and every Question and subpart of a Question set forth in this Information Request.
2. Precede each answer with the Question (or subpart) and the number of the Question (and the letter of a subpart of a Question, if applicable) to which it corresponds.
3. If information or documents not known or not available to you as of the date of submission of a response to this Information Request should later become known or available to you, ***you must supplement*** your response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Moreover, should you find, at any time, after submission of your response, that any portion of the submitted information is false or misrepresents the truth, or, though correct when made, is no longer true, you must notify the EPA of this fact as soon as possible and provide the EPA with a corrected response.
4. For each document produced in response to this Information Request, indicate on the document, or in some other reasonable manner, the number of the Question (and the letter of a subpart of a Question, if applicable) to which it responds.
5. You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering part or all of the information which you submit in response to this request. Any such claim must be made by placing on (or attaching to) the information, at the time it is submitted to the EPA, a cover sheet or a stamped or typed legend or other suitable form of notice employing language such as "trade secret," "proprietary," or "company confidential." Confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified and may be submitted separately to facilitate identification and handling by the EPA. If you make such a claim, the information covered by that claim will be disclosed by the EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in subpart B of 40 CFR Part 2. If no such claim accompanies the information when it is received by the EPA, it may be made available to the public by the EPA without further notice to you. The requirements of 40 CFR Part 2 regarding business confidentiality claims were published in the Federal Register on September 1, 1976, and were amended September 8, 1976, and December 18, 1985.
6. Personal Privacy Information. Personnel and medical files, and similar files the disclosure of which to the general public may constitute an invasion of privacy should be segregated from your responses, included on separate sheet(s), and marked as "Personal Privacy Information."
7. Objections to questions. If you have objections to some or all the questions within the Information Request Letter, you are still required to respond to each of the questions.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply to the following words as they appear in this enclosure:

1. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of this Information Request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
2. The term "any", as in "any documents" for example, shall mean "any and all."
3. The term "arrangement" means every separate contract or other agreement between two or more persons.
4. The terms "document(s)" and "documentation" shall mean any object that records, stores, or presents information, and includes writings of any kind, formal or informal, whether or not wholly or partially in handwriting, including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation, any invoice, manifest, bill of lading, receipt, endorsement, check, bank draft, canceled check, deposit slip, withdrawal slip, order, correspondence, record book, minutes, memorandum of telephone and other conversations including meetings, agreements and the like, diary, calendar, desk pad, scrapbook, notebook, bulletin, circular, form, pamphlet, statement, journal, postcard, letter, telegram, telex, telecopy, telefax, report, notice, message, analysis, comparison, graph, chart, map, interoffice or intra office communications, photostat or other copy of any documents, microfilm or other film record, any photograph, sound recording on any type of device, any punch card, disc pack; any tape or other type of memory generally associated with computers and data processing (together with the programming instructions and other written material necessary to use such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory and together with the printouts of such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory); and (a) every copy of each document which is not an exact duplicate of a document which is produced, (b) every copy which has any writing, figure or notation, annotation or the like on it, (c) drafts, (d) attachments to or enclosures with any document and (e) every document referred to in any other document.
5. The term "identify" means, with respect to a natural person, to set forth the person's name, present or last known business and personal addresses, email address(es), and telephone numbers, and present or last known job title, position or business. Also provide e-mail addresses.
6. The term "identify" means, with respect to a corporation, partnership, business trust or other association or business entity (including, but not limited to, a sole proprietorship), to set forth its full name, address, and legal form (e.g. corporation [including state of incorporation], partnership, etc.), organization, if any, a brief description of its business, and to indicate whether or not it is still in existence and, if it is no longer in existence, to explain how its existence was terminated and to indicate the date on which it ceased to exist. Also provide e-mail addresses.
7. The term "identify" means, with respect to a document, to provide the type of document, to provide its customary business description, its date, its number, if any (invoice or purchase order number), subject matter, the identity of the author, addressor, addressee and/or recipient, and the present location of such document.
8. The term "person" shall have the same definition as in Subsection 101 (21) of CERCLA, 42U.S.C. §9601 (21).

9. The term "you" or "Respondent" shall mean the addressee of this Request, the addressee's officers, managers, employees, contractors, trustees, partners, successors and agents.
10. Words in the masculine shall be construed in the feminine, and vice versa, and words in the singular shall be construed in the plural, and vice versa, where appropriate in the context of a particular question or questions as necessary to bring within the scope of this Information Request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
11. All terms not defined herein shall have their ordinary meaning, unless such terms are defined in CERCLA, RCRA, 40 CFR Part 300 or 40 CFR Parts 260-280, in which case the statutory or regulatory definitions shall apply.



ENCLOSURE 3

Instructions for Applying for Ability to Pay Financial Review

To process a claim of financial hardship, EPA requires you to substantiate that claim by submitting extensive and detailed financial documentation. If as a potentially responsible party (APRP@) you feel that you would face a severe financial hardship by remitting the full payment amount, you may request that EPA review your financial ability to pay by following the instructions outlined below.

Your ability to pay claim cannot be considered unless all requested information has been submitted to EPA, or a justifiable explanation as to why it cannot be provided is specifically stated. Your claim will be considered in a future settlement.

If financial information was submitted in response to previous correspondence to EPA, that information should be updated and/or supplemented.

BUSINESSES, please provide:

1. Signed copies of the most recent 5 years of federal tax returns for the business as filed with the IRS complete with all schedules and attachments.
2. Copies of the most recent 5 years of audited financial statements complete with all notes and supplementary schedules. If no audit is performed, unaudited financial statements are acceptable.
3. If not included with either the tax returns or financial statements, provide an all inclusive depreciation schedule detailing the assets of the company.
4. If your business applied for any loans within the past 3 years, provide a copy of each loan application complete with all supporting documents.
5. Provide an organization chart detailing all related entities.
6. Provide a written position statement detailing your financial condition and ability to pay. Provide any documents which support your position or which you want us to consider.
7. If applicable, provide a copy of the LLC, LLP, or partnership agreement complete with all attachments and amendments.
8. Name and telephone number of the person(s) most familiar with the submitted documents to answer questions.

SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS AND INDIVIDUALS, please provide:

1. Signed copies of the most recent 5 years of your personal federal tax returns (i.e., IRS Form 1040) as filed with the IRS complete with all schedules and attachments.
2. Complete and sign the Financial Data Request Form included with this letter.
3. If you applied for any loans within the past 3 years, provide a copy of each loan application complete with all supporting documents.
4. A written position statement detailing your financial condition and ability to pay. Provide any documents which support your position or which you want us to consider.
5. Name and telephone number of the person(s) most familiar with the submitted documents to answer questions.

Submit all required supporting documentation within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. Please include your party's name on any documents submitted to EPA. If you have questions, please call Stephen Capuyan at (214) 665-2163.

ENCLOSURE 4

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR BUSINESSES